

House Republican Press Release

January 12, 2006
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Tymniak Announces Energy-Related Tax Savings Available Until April 15



State Rep. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133rd, Fairfield, Westport, announced that new energy-saving tax incentives adopted by the state legislature are available to consumers until April 15.

Rep. Tymniak said the legislation also provides more funding for home heating assistance programs to low-income individuals and imposes tougher penalties for energy price gouging.

“For most homeowners,” Rep. Tymniak said, “the main benefit is a suspension of the six percent Connecticut sales tax on energy-efficient products purchased between November 2005 and April 15, 2006.”

Qualifying products include insulation, programmable thermostats, water heater blankets, window film, window and door weather strips, caulking, water heaters, gas furnaces, and windows that meet federal Energy Star standards and oil furnaces that are at least 85% efficient.

“It is important that homeowners in Fairfield and Westport know they can take advantage of this new legislation,” said Rep. Tymniak. “For lower income people, more home heating assistance is available so that people do not have to choose between food or medicine and heat.”

“For others,” Rep. Tymniak added, “this is a good time to take advantage of the opportunity to install water heater insulating blankets, weather stripping or even new heating equipment. There will be long-term energy savings that result from taking these energy-saving actions now.”

For more information on energy assistance, Rep. Tymniak said that resident may contact the state Department of Social Service at www.ct.gov/dss or dial 2-1-1 for the state Infoline assistance center.

Specifically, Rep. Tymniak said, the new legislation provides the following energy assistance:

1. increases benefits under the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which helps low income households pay their heating bills and provides related services;
2. provides benefits for moderate income households under the Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) component of CEAP;
3. increases the number of households provided with weatherization services;
4. establishes a new program to provide furnace tune-ups and other energy efficiency services, available to all income groups.

Rep. Tymniak serves the 133rd Assembly District of Fairfield and Westport in the state House of Representatives.